

CM/ECF Project Update
September, 2001

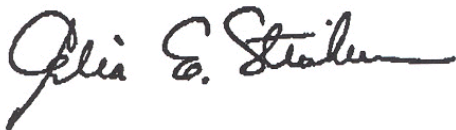
Our July kickoff site visit went very well. Some of you had the opportunity to join us here and see some sample processes and have some preliminary questions answered. Members of our project team are being trained, and several have visited our mentor court, Texas Western, to see the system in action in the clerk's office there. Next month, we will be visiting the court in Atlanta to see how the system is being used in the courtroom, for scheduling and by trustees. As we progress further into the project, future updates here will give you a better idea of our time line for going live on the new case management system.

At the end of November, our systems manager and manager of our CM/ECF project, David LePauloue, will be making a presentation as part of a Maine State Bar Association CLE program on use of technology. This is an opportunity to learn more about where we are going and how we are getting there. For more information, you can access the MSBA web site at <http://www.mainebar.org/>.

Shortly thereafter, I will begin looking for volunteers to be the first to sign on for the Electronic Case Filing part of this project. The benefits are substantial, and include 24-hour access to the court from anywhere; email notification of activity in your case; savings in copying, courier and noticing costs; the ability to carry your entire case file in your laptop; and more. The hardware and software requirements are minimal, and you probably already have them in place. When the time comes, we'll be providing lots of information and training to get you going.

For now, though, if you're interested in seeing what the system looks like, there's an attorney tutorial that anyone can play with on several courts' web sites. It is being updated by the Administrative Office, and the most recent version can be found, for example, at the Pacer web site: <http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/ecfcbt/>. If you'd like to play around with it for a while, it will give you a good idea of what the system will look like for the end user.

We're getting pretty excited about the capabilities and benefits of this new system, and I hope you soon will too.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Celia E. Strickler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Celia" being the most prominent part.

Celia E. Strickler
Clerk of Court